

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05

H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 EB-08 HA-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01

/111 W

-----098990 141554Z /40

R 131430Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1776

INFO AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GABORONE 0713

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, UNGA, BC

SUBJECT: REVIEW OF 32ND UNGA

REF: (A) STATE 16347, (B) STATE 14739, (C) STATE 15950

AND PREVIOUS

1. IN RESPONSE TO A LONG-STANDING PROMISE TO REVIEW OUR PERCEPTION OF 32ND UNGA WITH HIM, DCM AND EMBOFF SAW DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINEXTAFF MOGAMI ON MARCH 10. THEY CONVEYED TO MOGAMI A SERIES OF TALKING POINTS COMPLIED FROM THE REFERENCED CABLES (WHICH, INCIDENTALLY, WE FIND TO BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL). MOGAMI WAS MOST APPRECIATIVE, ESPECIALLY BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN AWAY FROM UN AFFAIRS FOR THE PAST TWO MONTHS.

2. IN REACTING, MOGAMI SAID HE SAW MANY AREAS IN WHICH

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U.S. AND GOB INTERESTS AND POSITIONS COINCIDED, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE, OF COURSE, POINTS OF DIVERGENCE AS WELL. AS ONE OF THE LATTER, HE SINGLED OUT THE "OBVIOUS" ISSUE OF NORTH-SOUTH ECONOMIC DIALOGUE. AS EXAMPLES OF COMMON INTERESTS, HE MENTIONED PARTICULARLY THE AREAS OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL (ADMITTING THAT BOTSWANA WAS VERY UNSOPHISTICATED IN THE ARMS FIELD).

3. MOGAMI'S ONLY NOVEL COMMENT WORTH NOTING WAS IN CONNECTION WITH THE POSSIBILITY OF SANCTIONS BEING INSTITUTED AGAINST RSA. HE FIRST STATED WHAT WE ALL KNOW, I.E. THAT BOTSWANA'S ECONOMIC INTERESTS DICTATE THAT SHE REMAIN AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE ON THE SUBJECT OF SANCTIONS, WHILE HER POLITICAL AFFILIATION CALLS FOR MAINTENANCE OF CREDIBILITY WITH THE REST OF AFRICA BY FAVORING THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS. MOGAMI THEN NOTED THAT IN GOB'S MANY MEETINGS WITH SAG ON "OTHER SUBJECTS", THE SAG REPRESENTATIVES VERY OFTEN THREW IN A GRATUITIOUS SUGGESTION THAT THE GOB APPROACH OTHER AFRICAN STATES TO ARGUE AGAINST THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS, SUCH AN APPROACH BEING IN THE BOTSWANA NATIONAL INTEREST.

4. COMMENT: THIS IS THE FIRST INSTANCE WE ARE AWARE OF THAT GOB HAS OPENLY ADMITTED TO PRESSURE FROM SAG TO OPPOSE THE IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS. HOWEVER, MOGAMI'S REMARKS LEFT US IN NO DOUBT THAT GOB FELT IT IMPERATIVE AND IS DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE REST OF BLACK AFRICA, ALBEIT ADOPTING AS LOW PROFILE AS POSSIBLE AND KEEPING ITS COLLECTIVE FINGERS CROSSED THAT SOMETHING WILL HAPPEN TO KEEP THE SANCTIONS AXE FROM FALLING.

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